Planning a Geographic Information Infrastructure
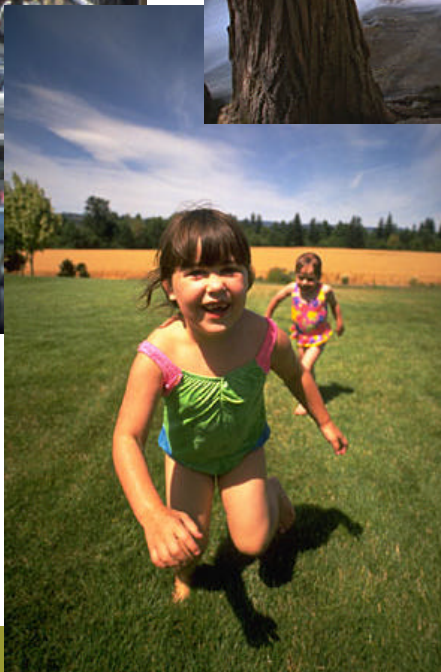
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Section 1. Indiana Geographic Information Council:
Executive Summary

Coordination of GIS resources is vital to informed decision-making. To make the best decisions we need the best – *most reliable* – data. Over 80% of public data has a geographic component. For education, human services, public safety, environment, tax assessment, agriculture, and others - GIS data *are* the best data. But not if the data don't "fit" together, not if the data aren't accessible, not if we don't know the data exist, and not if the data aren't well documented. For informed decision-making using GIS data we need these data to a coordinated resource statewide.

The mission of the Indiana Geographic Information Council is to "lead the effective application of GIS in Indiana for an improved quality of life". The vision of IGIC is that "all Indiana communities will be healthier, wealthier and wiser because they are part of a robust statewide GIS infrastructure."

In keeping with the mission and vision, IGIC's objectives are the coordination of Indiana GIS through:
- Dissemination of data and data products,
- Education and outreach,
- Building partnerships, and
- Standards and recommendations.

Organizationally, IGIC is currently sustained through soft-money funding and a large volunteer base. IGIC is in the process of incorporating as a not-for-profit. In order to address the continued growth in requirements for administrative management, funded activities, and membership services, a new more sustainable funding model is needed. As such, IGIC has adopted organization and management objectives to become self-sustaining.

In the summer of 2000, Governor Frank O'Bannon signed a Proclamation (Appendix A) recognizing the establishment of and participation of the state in the Indiana Geographic Information Council (IGIC) to guide the development of a statewide GIS program. IGIC encompasses a 25 member coordinating body (Appendix C: Council Members) charged with the development and biennial update of a strategic management plan; development and implementation of a statewide geographic data-sharing cooperative; recommendation of policies, standards, guidelines and strategies that emphasize cooperation and coordination among Indiana GIS users; and to provide support and advice to member organizations. IGIC is an outgrowth of a grass-roots effort known as the Indiana GIS Initiative begun in 1997 (Appendix B: INGISI Commitment to Success). Through the Indiana Geographic Information Council and Indiana GIS Initiative, a strong partnership environment exists in Indiana.

A concerted effort has been made to secure the participation of local, state and federal government, universities, the private sector, and not-for-profits. The enthusiasm statewide for GIS coordination has been remarkable; in all, over 450 individuals from nearly 150 different

organizations have become involved in INGISI.   Since the IGIC and its committees began meeting last August, the following progress has been made:

Statewide GIS Strategic Planning – The IGIC recognizes that GIS is quickly becoming a core integrative technology that can affect the quality of life for Indiana citizens – it's a critical tool in areas such as economic development, land use, and resource management, and provides the infrastructure for delivery of services such as e-government and location-based services. The strategic planning workgroup of the IGIC has defined the mission, vision, objectives, and goals of IGIC geared toward action items and implementation strategies for the IGIC committees. To assist in this process, a Statewide GIS Questionnaire (Appendix F) was administered to identify the status of GIS across the state and identify gaps in vital framework data. IGIC also coordinates closely with the State Agency GIS Task Force and State GIS Coordinator (Appendix L).

I-Team Formation – The Indiana Geographic Information Council (IGIC) has endorsed the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) I-Team concept for assessing the status of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Framework Data Themes (refer to Sections 3 and 4 of this Report). IGIC established itself as Indiana's I-Team in January 2001. The goal of Indiana's I-Team is to devise a plan for development and long-term maintenance for each theme. This Report represents the first phase of that effort.

Indiana Geographic Information Catalog – The first step in leveraging GIS data resources is the understanding of what's out there and how to get it. The Indiana Geographic Information Catalog made its debut in January 2001.   It is a free web-based, dynamic catalog of Indiana GIS data that is searchable by keywords, geographic area of interest and time period of content. The Catalog retrieves documentation about GIS datasets, including data quality and data distribution information. The Catalog is hosted and supported by the IUPUI University Library and was funded in part by a 1999 Federal Geographic Data Committee grant awarded to the Indiana GIS Initiative (http://atlas.ulib.iupui.edu/fgdc_node/). IGIC also cooperates with the Indiana Land Use Consortium on development of a comprehensive catalog of land use related data and information. The product of that cooperative effort will be integrated with the Indiana Geographic Information Catalog.

Data Standards and Recommendations – The IGIC is working closely with state and local governments to recommend standards that encourage data compatibility and enable data integration and sharing. The first recommendation approved by the IGIC is a data documentation standard representing a critical step toward protecting data investments and data sharing, and is consistent with the federal *metadata* standard (Appendix H). Draft standards have been released for public comment, including technical specifications that promote data compatibility, such as Datums, Projections, and Scale and Accuracy.

GIS Clearinghouse – The IGIC Data Sharing Committee has examined GIS clearinghouses in other states, collecting information on policies, structure, management, and business models (Appendix I: Review of Other States' GIS Coordination Efforts). This process has revealed

valuable information contributing to a strategy for implementation in Indiana. A strategic concept has been developed that outlines a phased approach to implementing a web-based statewide GIS data clearinghouse. Funding has been secured from the Indiana Land Resources Council, Indiana Department of Transportation, and Federal Highway Administration to implement the first phases: Strategic Assessment, System Planning and Design, and Statewide Cornerstone Implementation. IGIC will coordinate with a number of partners, including the Indiana Geological Survey, IUPUI University Library, The Polis Center at IUPUI, and the State GIS Coordinator (Appendix G).

GIS Seminar Series – A GIS Seminar Series being co-sponsored with The Polis Center at IUPUI provides a monthly venue for exploring cross-cutting issues in GIS policy, management, and technology. Expert speakers from Indiana and across the county present on topics such as the legal issues of spatial data access, alternative GIS implementation strategies, understanding contracts for local government, and business models associated with enhanced public access to GIS.

Statewide GIS Conference – Planning continues for the next Indiana GIS Conference "*Indiana GIS 2002: Moving to the Main Stream*" February 28 - March 1, at the Indianapolis Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center. A dynamic keynote presentation will be made by Ron Matzner, who spearheaded the national I-Team Initiative. Formerly with the federal Office of Management and Budget, Mr. Matzner is now the I-Team Liaison of the Federal Geographic Data Committee. Last year's 2-day conference was held at the Indiana Convention Center and nearly 400 people attended.

GIS Information Access Center – The web site of the statewide GIS initiative provides an entry point to Indiana GIS and the Indiana Geographic Information Council – its committees, newsletters, documents and meeting minutes; future Statewide Internet Mapping System; calendar of events; news releases; jobs board; links pages; on-line discussion forum; state, regional and local GIS sites; funding sources; and more. The web site is hosted by Access Indiana, with IGIC partners hosting sub-sites (www.in.gov/ingisi).

This Report, *Planning a Geographic Information Infrastructure*, details IGIC's Strategic Plan and I-Team Report for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. This Report, and ultimately the success of IGIC, is a result of the contribution and participation of numerous volunteers and their supporting organizations, and the dedication of IGIC members. The IGIC Strategic Planning Workgroup (David Mockert, City of Indianapolis / Marion County GIS; Eric Torok, The Schnieder Corp.; Roger Koelpin, Indiana Department of Information Technology; Kent Park, ASI, Inc; Jill Saligoe-Simmel, Watershed Research; Andy Laudick, Marion County Health and Hospital; Lou Zickler, Indiana Association of Realtors) and the IGIC Data Sharing Committee (Bruce Nielsen, NRCS; Kevin Petche, IUPUI University Library; Lorraine Wright, IDEM; Anna Radue, Indiana University; Paul Irwin, Indiana Geological Survey; Kevin Miller, IDEM; Irvin Goldblatt, IDEM; Michael Klepper, ESRI; David Melton, Plexis Group; Debra Martin, City of South Bend; and Jill Saligoe-Simmel, Watershed Research) were particularly involved in the research and development of the materials produced in this Report. The Indiana Farm Bureau donated facilities for the strategic planning retreat, and the Natural Resources Conservation

Service donated the time of Catrina Perkinson, professional facilitator. Funding for the Strategic Plan was provided by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. This report was produced with the support of The Polis Center at IUPUI. Startup funding for IGIC was provided in 1999 by the Federal Geographic Data Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

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